

Leopard's Tree Route Guide

Asterix and Obelix Crag

Richard Halsey

Version: 9 May 2023

Please note: This route guide is a work in progress and will be updated as new routes are added. Walk in times are estimates need confirmation.

Many of the routes have not been repeated, so feedback on quality and grades is welcome.

Please contact the author on rjhalsey@gmail.com with new route information or other additions/amendments

Disclaimer:

The usual – climbing is potentially dangerous, and the author of this guidebook accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any injuries or death that result from using this guidebook.

The Asterix and Obelix crags offer a lovely location with a river running through the kloof. Please respect this environment and take all litter out with you.

Cover: South side of the Main Kloof.

Photo by Richard Halsey.

Basic information

The location

The established climbing areas are all located in one beautiful kloof accessed from Leopard's Tree Campsite, near Citrusdal and at the southern end of the Cederberg mountain range. The kloof provides drinking water and a great ambience with lots of trees – an unusual feature for climbing in the Cederberg surrounds. Near the campsite there are several citrus orchards and the campsite has plenty of shade under large oak trees. There are also longer hiking and bike trails accessible from the campsite.

The climbing

Most routes are single pitch, ranging from 10 to 45m. On each side of the kloof are isolated turrets and pinnacles, along with narrow 'slots' and larger panels. As such, the climbing is spread out, with a variety of orientations and steepness on offer. The colour, friction and features of the rock vary significantly between the crags.



Oliver Williams starting up *Megafix* (18) in The Slot, with Salome Kraamwinkel on belay.
Photo by Richard Halsey.

Logistics and guide information

Getting there

From Cape Town, take the N7 north and turn off to Citrusdal. At the junction in the town centre, turn right onto Voortrekker St and drive 20km south. Turn left into the farm at the black and white sign for Leopards Tree Campsite (see photo below). Follow the dirt road through the farm to the campsite. The drive is 200km from Cape Town city centre.



Camping

For details about the Leopard's Tree Campsite and to book, see the following websites:

<https://www.travelground.com/accommodation/leopards-tree-campsite/rooms>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/554593865844614/>

The campsite owners have been incredibly hospitable and welcoming of climbers. Please be polite and respectful, and do not do anything to jeopardise the good relationship that is in place.

Notes

New crag with new routing - bring a helmet!

New crag with new routing – bring tat to back up anchors!

Abbreviations in route description [**B** = bolts, **N**= trad, **C**= chains, **T** = Tat anchor]

Symbols

Route number

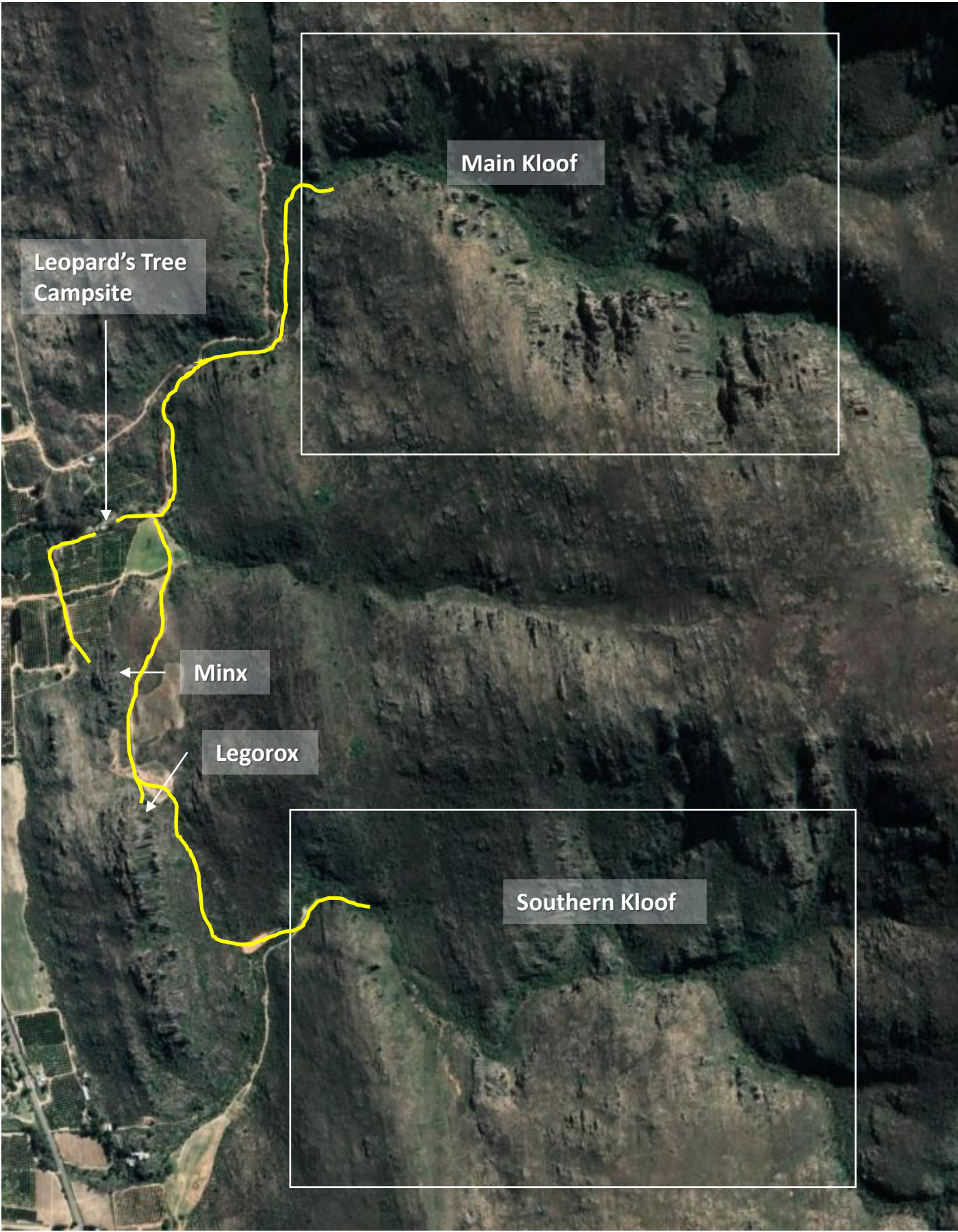


Bolted anchor



Tat anchor





Main Kloof

Lily

Panel

Sphinx

X Factor

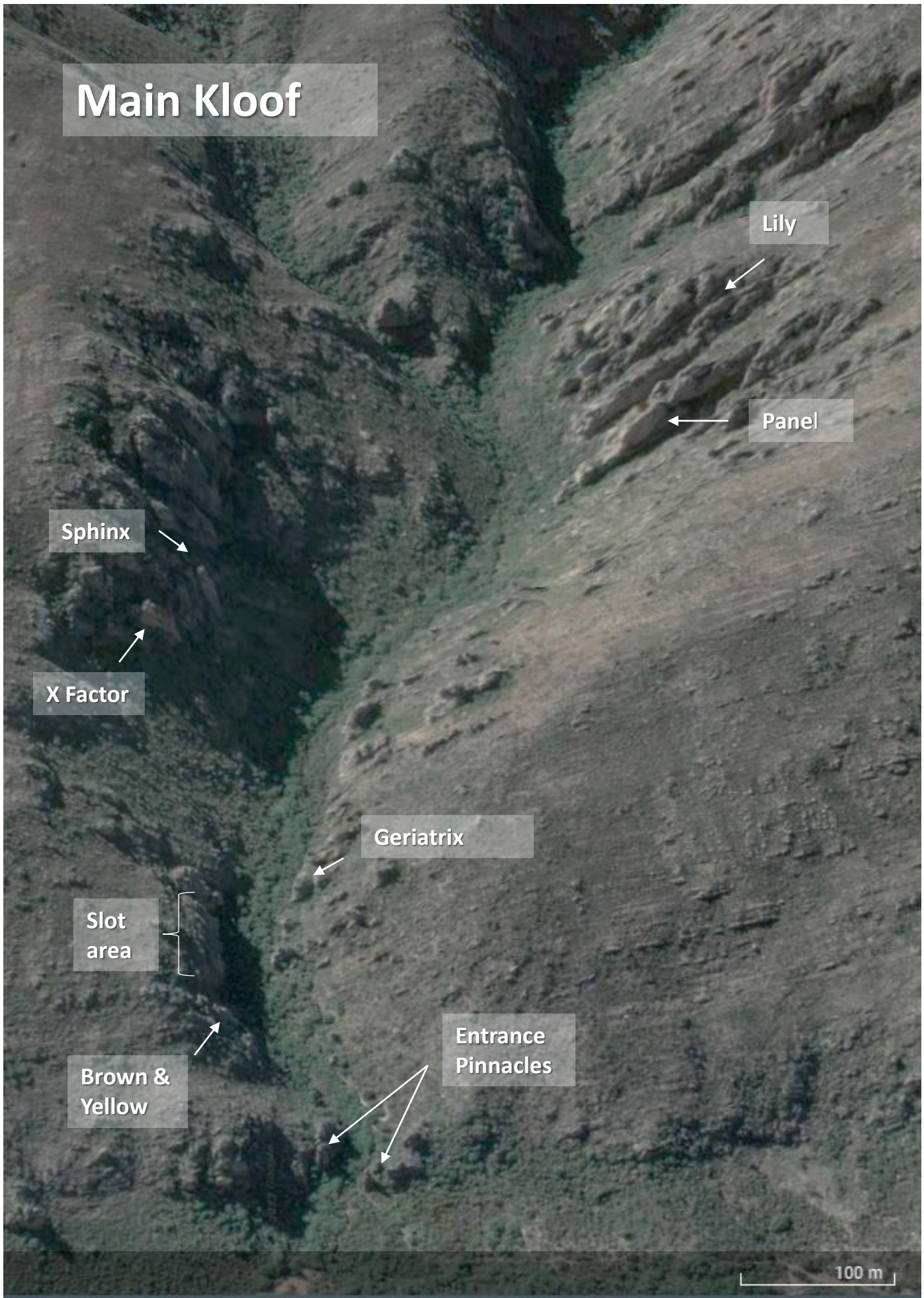
Geriatric

Slot
area

Brown &
Yellow

Entrance
Pinnacles

100 m



Minx

The panel visible as you drive into campsite. Shade in morning, sun in afternoon. Walk in from campsite: 10 mins. Scramble and walk off to the climbers right



1. Hot Little Minx (22) *** [N]

Tricky start (key #1DMM wire in horizontal ~3m up), then pumpy climbing to the top. Scramble off to the left to descend. .

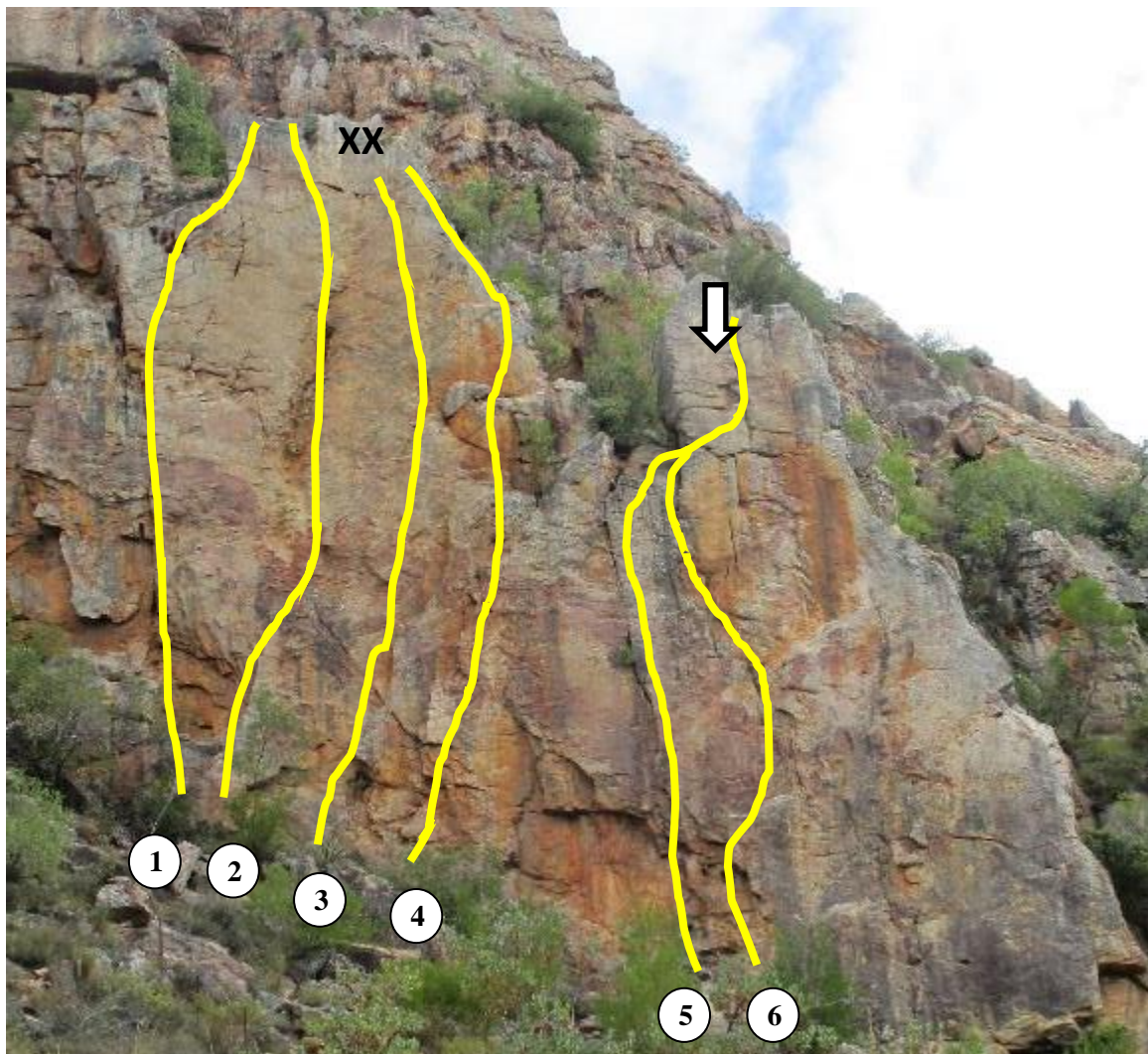
FA: R. Halsey, A. Roux & R. Strate (Dec 2022)

Legorox

The panels visible south of the campsite. Morning sun, afternoon shade.

Walk in from campsite: 10 mins

Good crag for top roping. The top of the routes can be accessed by walking around on the left. The trad routes are not ideal for beginners on trad lead as the gear placements are funky and run-out, even though the grades are relatively easy, especially Lego Blox.



1. Lego Fix (17) ** [N, C]

FA: R. Halsey & C. Edelstein & (May 2022)

2. Lego Blox (19) *** [N, C]

FA: C. Edelstein & R. Halsey (May 2022)

3. Lego Bolts (18) *** [5B, C]

FA: C. Edelstein (2022)

4. Lego Box (15) ** [N, C]

Follow the step like features up and right, then back along ridge to anchors on Lego Bolts

FA: R. Halsey, A. Roux & R. Strate (Dec 2022)

5. Play Box (19) ** [N, T]

FA: R. Halsey & C. Edelstein & (May 2022)

6. Playfix (18) ** [N, T]

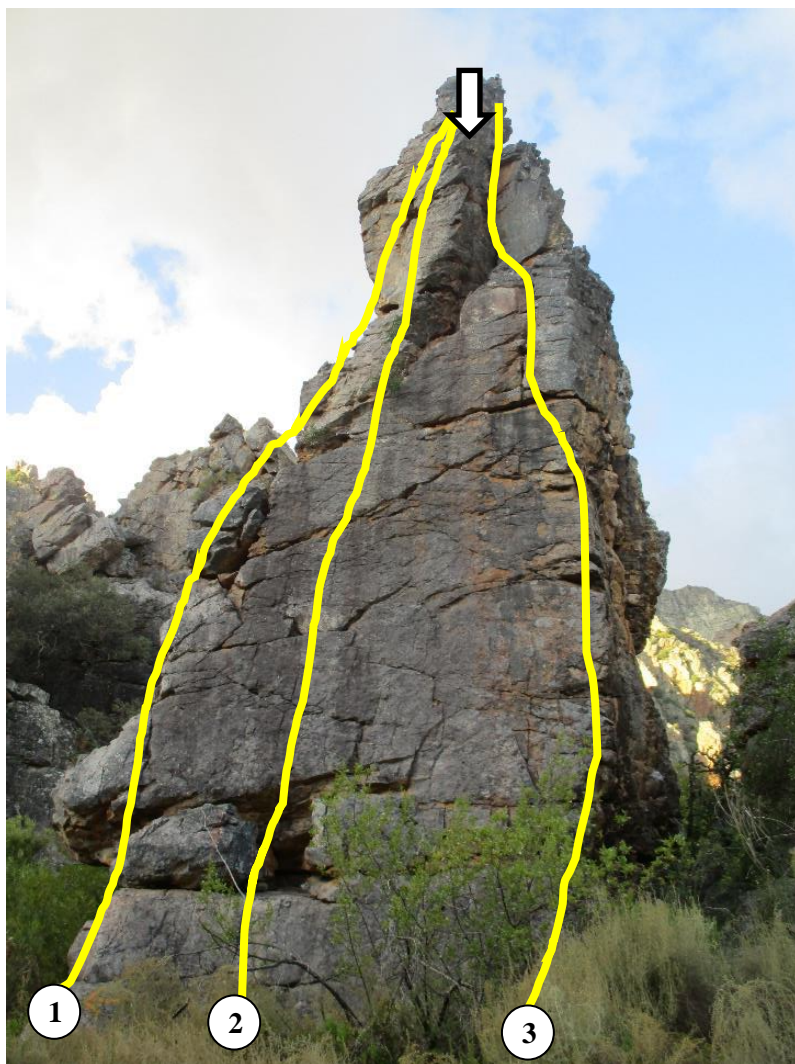
FA: C. Edelstein & R. Halsey (May 2022)

Vinger Klip

First pinnacle at the kloof entrance.

Morning shade, afternoon sun.

Walk in from campsite: 15 mins



1. Easy Fix (13)** [N, T]

FA: C Edelstein and Chris Roux (Sep 2022)

2. Little Fix (14) *** [N, T]

FA: A. Bennett & D. Miles (May 2022)

3. Triptix (15) ** [N, T]

Not that much gear on this one.

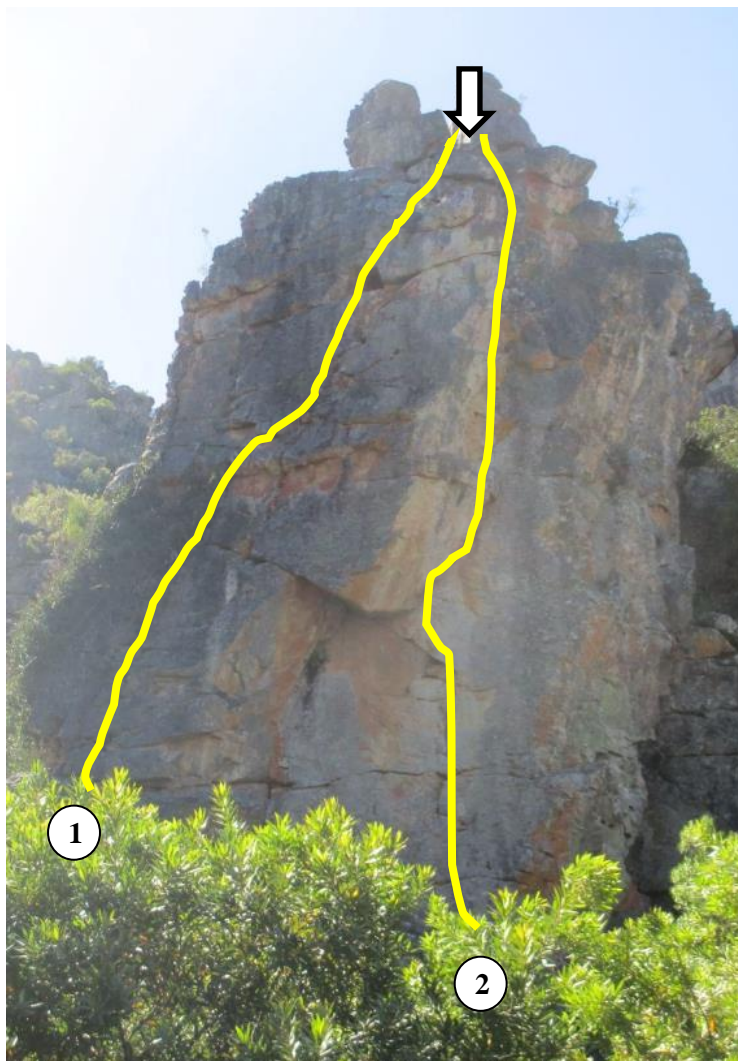
FA: C. Edelstein & R. Halsey (May 2022)

Entrance Pinnacle left

First pinnacle on left at the kloof entrance, take the path through the bushes on the left a few meters after entering kloof. Cross stream to reach base of *Kinky Sox*..

Morning shade, afternoon sun.

Walk from campsite: 15 mins



1. Who the Fux is Alex (17) *** [N,T]

Excellent face climbing with a tricky start.

FA: C Edelstein, Mike du Plessis and Alex Jensen (Sep 2022)

2. Kinky Sox (19) *** [N, T]

Very nice route. Crack line and right facing corner up the pinnacle.

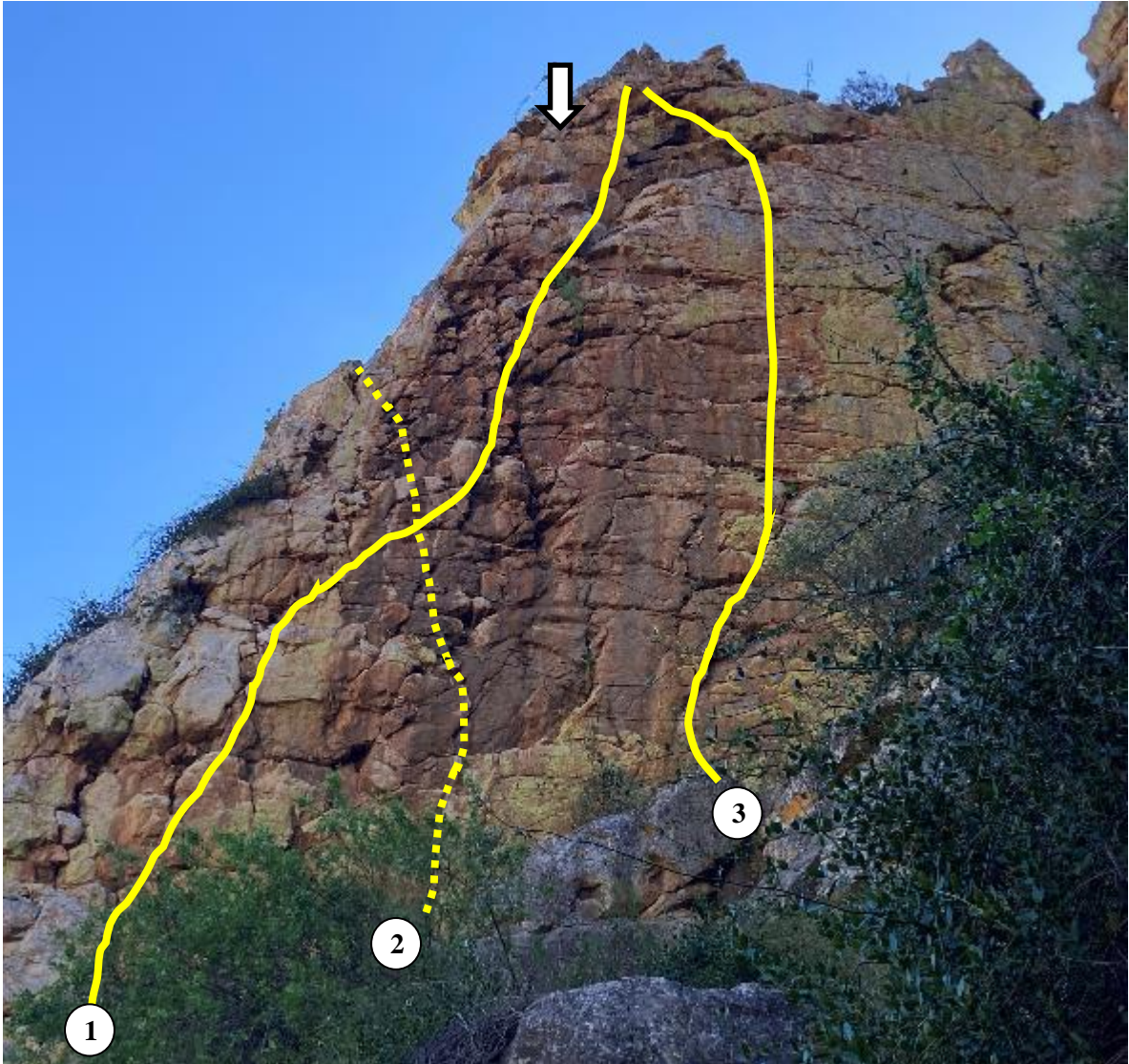
FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Sep 2022)

Brown and Yellow

East side. Follow main kloof path and after a few minutes take a vague path (cairn) through trees on left. Cross river and the up and left to base of wall.

Morning sun, afternoon shade.

Walk in from kloof entrance: 8 mins



1. Unhygienix (16) ** [N, T]

Some insecure blocks and fiddly gear.

FA: T. Larsen & R. Halsey (Apr 2022)

2. Access pitch to *Parallax*

3. The Helix (18) **** [N, T]

Good climbing, gear a wee bit tricky in places.

FA: R. Halsey & T. Larsen (Apr 2022)

Brown and Yellow

West side. Morning shade, afternoon sun.

Walk in from kloof entrance: 8 mins



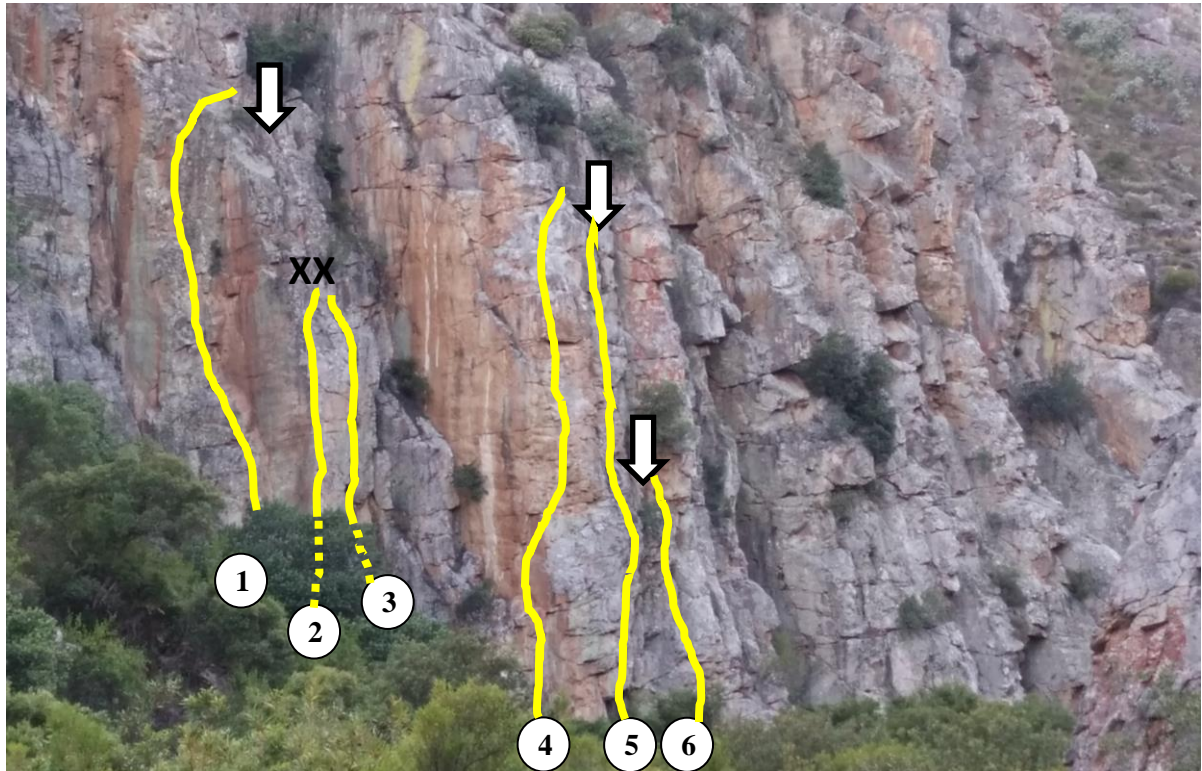
1. Parallax (19) **** [N, T]

The other side of the Brown and Yellow Face. Steeper than it looks. Climb an approach pitch (14) right of *Unhygienix*, to the top of a pillar. Walk the dotted yellow line to the start of Parallax. At the top of the tower, go down the ramp to the Brown and Yellow face tat rap.
FA: S. Cummane & O. Rattue (Sep 2022)

Big Fern

Approach as for Brown and Yellow, but after crossing river go straight.

Mixed sun and shade, depends if on rib or face. Walk in from kloof entrance: 10 mins



1. Monkey Trix (17) *** [N, T]

Climb a few meters into the recess. Move left into a finger crack (small nuts useful at the top). Step right onto a small platform and move up the short recess. Abseil off a big tree to the right.
FA: F. Sieber & M. Champanis (Sep 2022)

2. Edge of Onyx (26?) **** [7B, C]

Beautiful arete that gets progressively harder.
FA: R. Halsey (Mar 2023)

3. Squeeze Box (20) *** [N, C]

Up the chimney to a rude and strenuous exit. Abseil from *Edge of Onyx* anchor.
FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Mar 2023)

4. Fantastix (22) **** [N, T]

Sustained and pumpy. Up steep grey rock to a shelf. Up and right to the blunt arete. Follow this, mainly on right side until angle eases. Tat point to the right (shared with *Gortex*).
FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Nov 2022)

4. Gortex (21) *** [2B, N, T]

Follow the corner and through the roof to a hand crack. At the next ledge step right and take vague corner to the next wider crack system. Tat point at the top.
FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Nov 2022)

5. Electrix (21) *** [N, T]

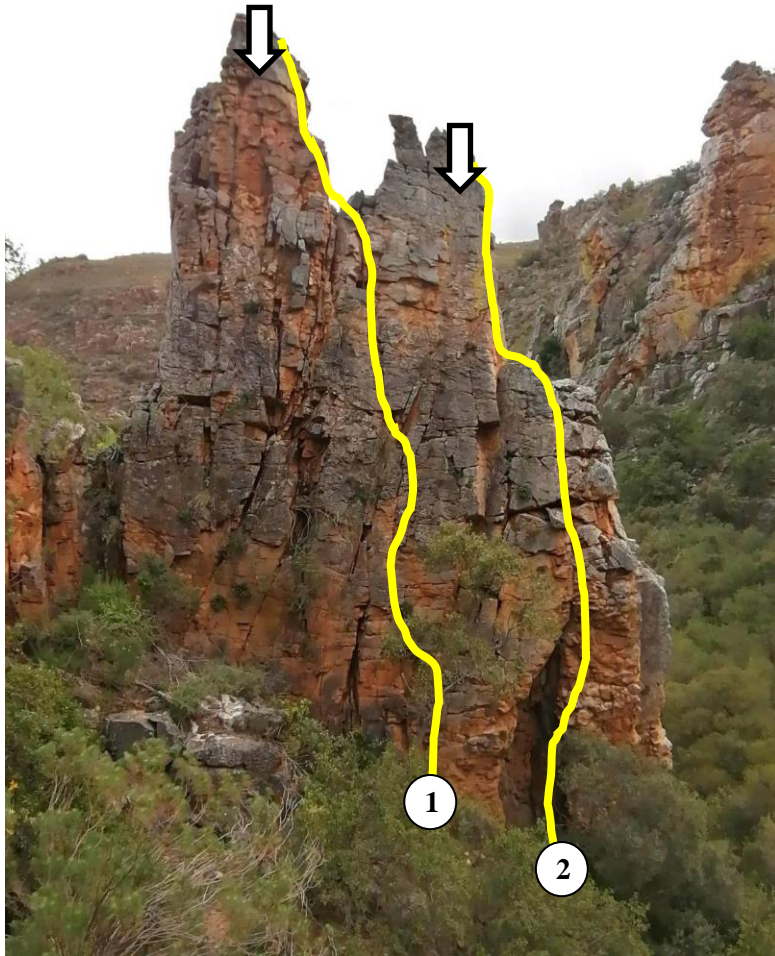
Start up steep corner with a difficult move to gain easier ground. Tat point at tree.
FA: R. Halsey, M. Du Plessis & R. Strate (Nov 2022)

Garden Routes I

Just to the right of the main kloof path.

Morning sun, afternoon shade.

Walk in from kloof entrance: 10 mins



1. Dirty Trix (15) * [N, T]

Start in the groove right of the deep crack, progress up slowly tending left. Vertical for its grade, good protection. Tat anchor on top of the left spire.

FA: M. Champanis & F. Sieber (Sep 2022)

2. Vertex (16) *** [N, T]

Climb and stem up the right side of the deep chimney until forced to exit onto the right pillar. Move onto the easier-than-it-looks overhanging face and climb on good jugs until reaching a platform on top. Either ab off here or continue up the new gray face on the left on easier but unprotected terrain. This goes to the top of the spire, and a large slung cord anchor. (The obviously loose block jammed in the chimney to be cleared).

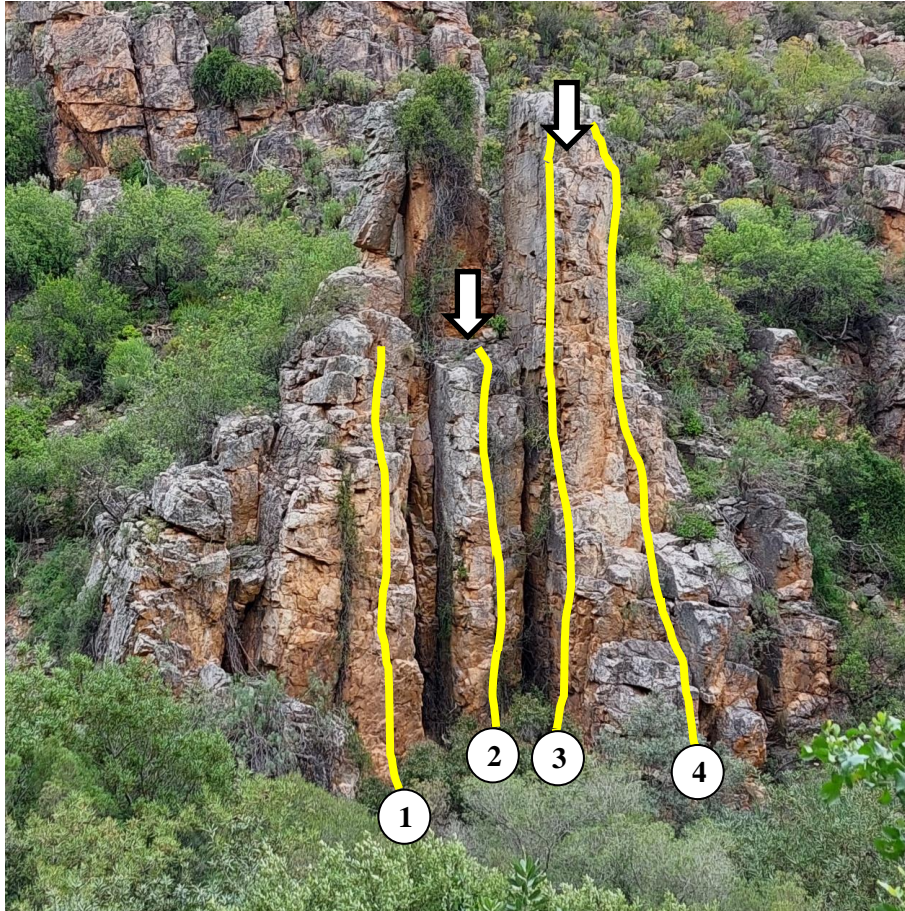
FA: F. Sieber & M. Champanis (Sep 2022)

Garden Routes II

Just to the right of the main kloof path.

Early morning and late afternoon shade

Walk in from kloof entrance: 10 mins



1. Expandix (17) *** [N, T]

Up the centre of pillar with steep start.

FA: R. Halsey, M. Du Plessis & M. Straughan (Dec 2022)

2. Remix (15) *** [N,T]

Bouldery starts leads to good jugs, go straight up to the big ledge.

FA: J. Lawson & K vd Westhuizen (Sep 2022)

3. Not my X (15) **** [N,T]

Follow the arete to the top. Fun, vertical route, not a lot of gear placements lower down (but easy climbing).

FA: J. Lawson & K vd Westhuizen (Sep 2022)

4. Fourex (15) *** [N, T]

Up the easy ramp then climb the right side of pillar. Stay right of the arete (loose rock) and come back left at the top. .

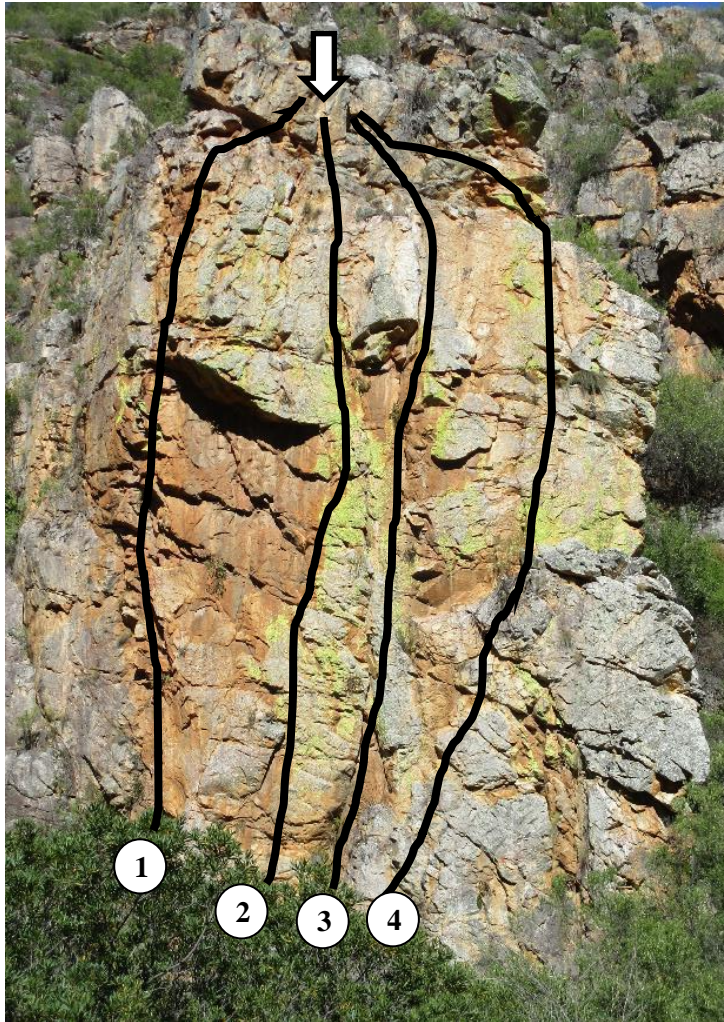
FA: R. Halsey, M. Straughan, M. Du Plessis & R. Strate (Dec 2022)

Geriatric

On the right of main path, just after Garden Routes and just before first river crossing.

Early morning and late afternoon shade

Walk in from kloof entrance: 12 mins



1. Side Effix (16) ** [N, T]

Some loose rock, take care.

FA: R. Halsey and T. Larsen (Apr 2022)

2. Geriatric (17) **** [N, T]

FA: T. Larsen and R. Halsey (Apr 2022)

3. Centrafix (19) *** [N, T]

FA: C Edelstein, T. Dunnett and R Halsey (Jun 2022)

4. Bollox (17) ** [N, T]

Up and right on good laybacks to a small ledge. Up the face to the top crack. Gear above mid ledge is not great.

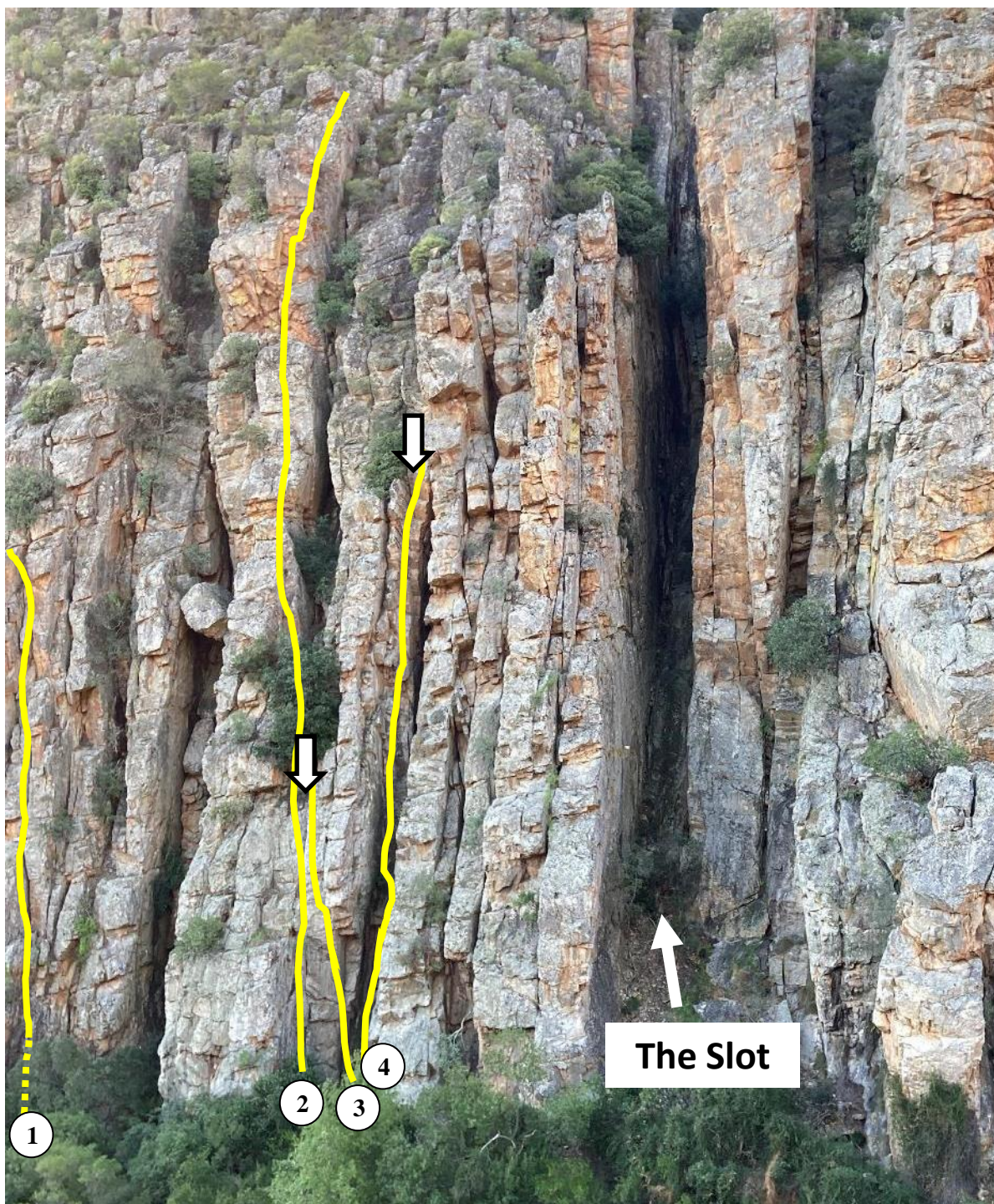
FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Sep 2022)

Slot Area

On the left of main path, just after first river crossing.

Shade on ribs from late morning.

Walk in from kloof entrance: 15 mins



Slot Area

1. Perchex (15) *** [N, T]

Better than it looks. Scramble up to the long crack and corner system, ending at a magnificent perch overlooking the kloof. Tat anchor to the left (shared with *Gortex*).

FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Mar 2023)

2. Crucifix (21) *** [N]

Pitch 1: 20m (17) Head up a thin crack to then transfer onto the slab on your left. Slab up easy climbing to reach a tree.

Pitch 2: 20m (21) Continue climbing up and then trend left to reach an open book corner with a thin crack to protect. Surmount the corner to reach a nice ledge above.

Pitch 3: 25m (18) From the ledge continue up a face that appears to be suspect at first. Trend through several big holds to reach pleasant climbing that takes you to the summit.

Rappel back down the route using trees that are in line with the summit. No rap cord.

FA: M. Dom & S. Govender (Sept 2022)

3. Pantoffelix (21) *** [N, T]

Start about 3m right of *Crucifix*. About 20m downstream of the entrance to The Slot.

Handcrack through roof (hard exit), then easy up to massive tree with tat

FA: R. Halsey & E. Pelzer (Nov 2022)

4. Saltricrax (19) *** [N, T]

Start just to the right of *Pantoffelix*, at the corner/hand jam crack. Climb to the roof, pull through on hand jams and/or crimps on the right face. Move to the left side of the gully and follow awkward climbing until a ledge and small tree on the left. Take the path of least resistance to a big tree at the top. Tat anchor, 35m abseil.

FA: M. Champanis & R. Strate (Jan 2023)

The Slot – left side



1. Betafix (18) ***** [N, T]

Start a few metres to the right of the arete up the slope. (There is more than one option). After bomber early gear do a bold move to good holds and, avoiding actually going to the left edge, head diagonally up right on the face to a tree on a ledge. Climb past the left of a tree and then head up the marvelous scoop for a few metres and then onto the left airy arete to a lower off.

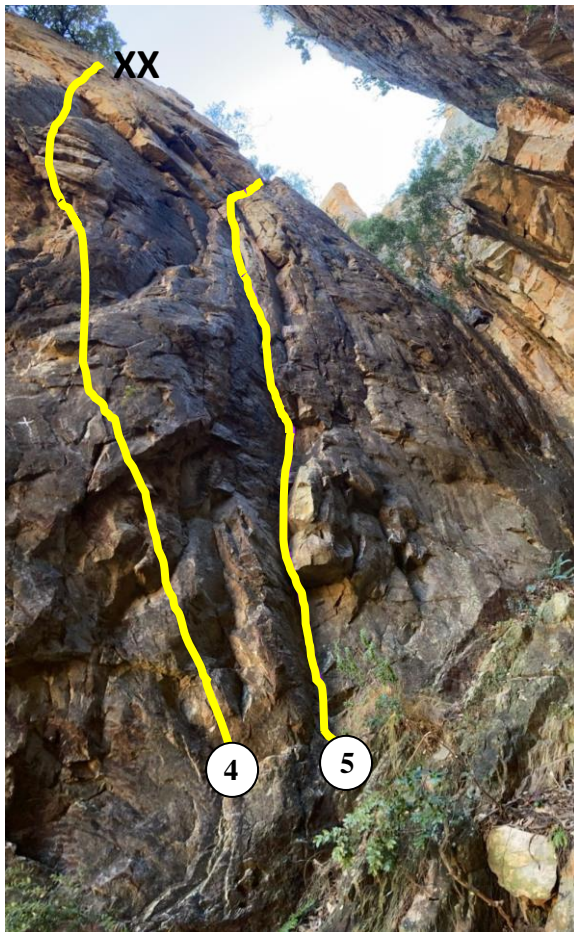
The route is 35m long but one can be lowered with 60m rope(s) ending high up on the slope.
FA: C Edelstein (Jun 2022)

2. Megafix (18) ***** [2B, N, T]

Climb past 2 bolts to a break. Continue up the dark unlikely looking rock directly above tending very slightly left to easier ground. Don't be tempted into the corner and cracks on the left but climb easily straight up on the face to a lower off.

FA: C Edelstein (June 2022)

The Slot – left side



The next routes are further in the slot, to the right of *Megaflax*

3. Cicatrix (19) *** [1B, N, C]

Traverse in and past single bolt left of *Playtex*. Climb straight up and then diagonally right to finish just right of tree at anchor on *Playtex*.

FA: C Edelstein (Apr 2022)

4. Playtex (20) *** [7B, C]

Bolted line through small overlap at half height. Good warm up for the harder routes.

FA: R. Halsey (Apr 2022)

5. Slick Trix (21) **** [N, T]

Thin crack just right of *Playtex*. Take small gear.

FA: C Edelstein (Apr 2022)

6. Salty Snax (20) *** [N, T]

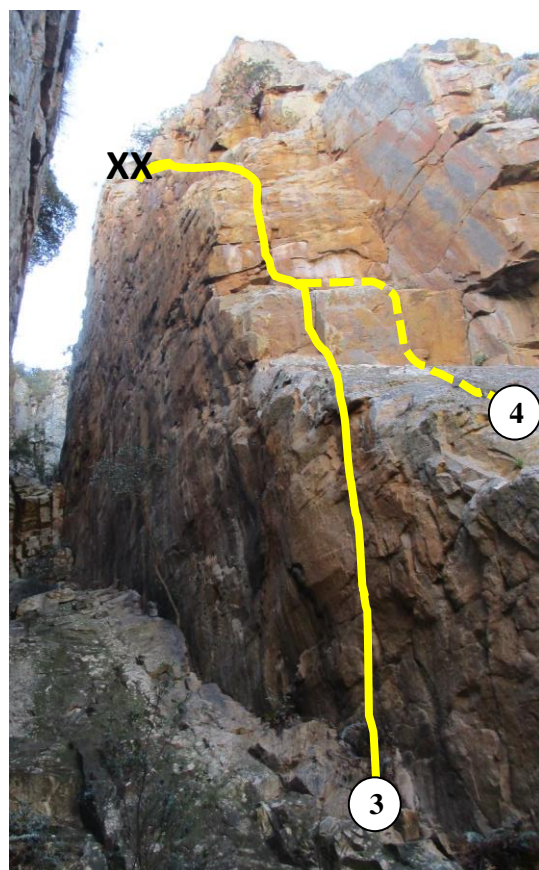
At the back of the Slot and up on left is a short pinnacle. The base is at a height just above ledge where *Slick Trix* ends.

Follows the obvious crack up the middle of the pinnacle. Abseil from tree to left.

FA: R. Halsey & K. Throolin (Feb 2023)

The Slot – right side

Morning shade, partial afternoon sun, late afternoon shade.
Walk in from kloof entrance: 15 mins



1. Oryx (27?) ***** [13B, C]

Curious crux near beginning then tend right to join *Ibex*.
FA: R. Halsey (Mar 2023)

2. Ibex (26/27?) ***** [12B, C]

Techy cruxes, big moves and pumpy. Most satisfying!
Past two bolts to funky right traverse. Advised to unclip first bolt after clipping second, and unclip second after clipping third.
FA: R. Halsey (Jun 2022)

3. Dramatix (21) *** [N, C]

Climb up the ramp to the first slightly overhanging step. The climb up the right crack using fist and hand jams (crux) step left to the next crack. Climb it and traverse left along the edge of the slot up until you arrive under the tree. (two rap bolts)
FA: T. Larsen and R. Halsey (Apr 2022)

4. Dramatix Direct (22) *** [N, C]

Direct start to *Dramatix*
FA: C Edelstein

The Slot – right side entrance

Morning shade and for quite a long part of the afternoon.

Walk in from kloof entrance: 15 mins



1. The Eek Geex (23/24) **** [4B, C]

Steep, featured arete. Good value for the length.

FA: R. Halsey (Mar 2023)

2. Vortex (23) *** [N, T]

Short and powerful crack line just right of the bolts. Take care with gear placements.

FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Mar 2023)

3. Pack of Six (17) *** [N, T]

The corner crack with green left wall. Completes the trio of short routes at the entrance to the slot.

FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Mar 2023)

The Sphinx

Follow the main path until the Sphinx comes into view. Turn left at a big cairn through by some small trees and a bit before a river crossing. Find your way up the slope (some cairns).

Sun depends which side you climb

Walk in from kloof entrance: 30 mins



1. Sphinx (20) **** [N, T]

Follow the right-hand crack all the way to the ramp. Move diagonal left across to the balancing block. Climb up the crack to a tricky finish. Rappel of the right of the block.

FA: T. Larsen and R. Halsey (Sep 2022)

2. Lynx (19) *** [N, T]

Follow the short layback past a small tree (take care with gear). Tend right to intermittent crack up the face. Continue up the wide cracks and breaks (#4 Camalot useful) finishing on the right side of the summit block.

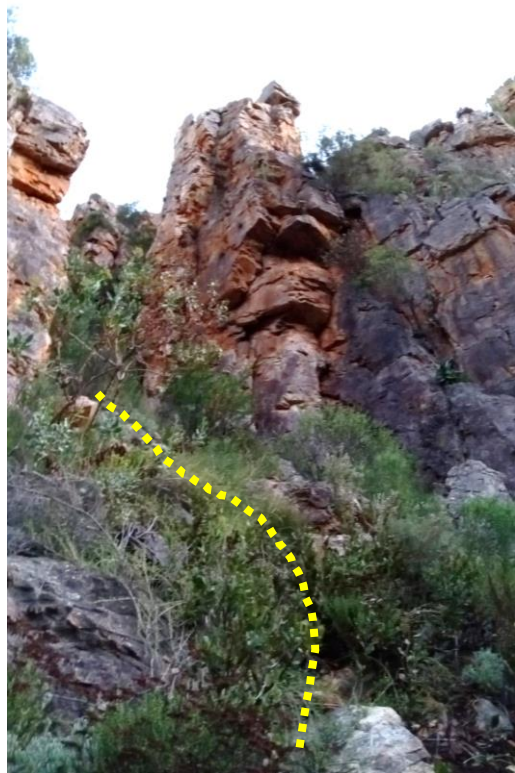
FA: R. Halsey & T. Larsen (Sep 2022)

Phoenix

Upstream a few mins from Geriatrix on the opposite side of kloof from The Slot.

Afternoon shade

Walk in from kloof entrance: 20 mins



1. Phoenix (20) *** [N, T]

Follow the arcing layback feature to a vertical crack on the left side of the arete. Move right near the top.

Descent: Walk-off. Step out right at end of route behind the boulder.

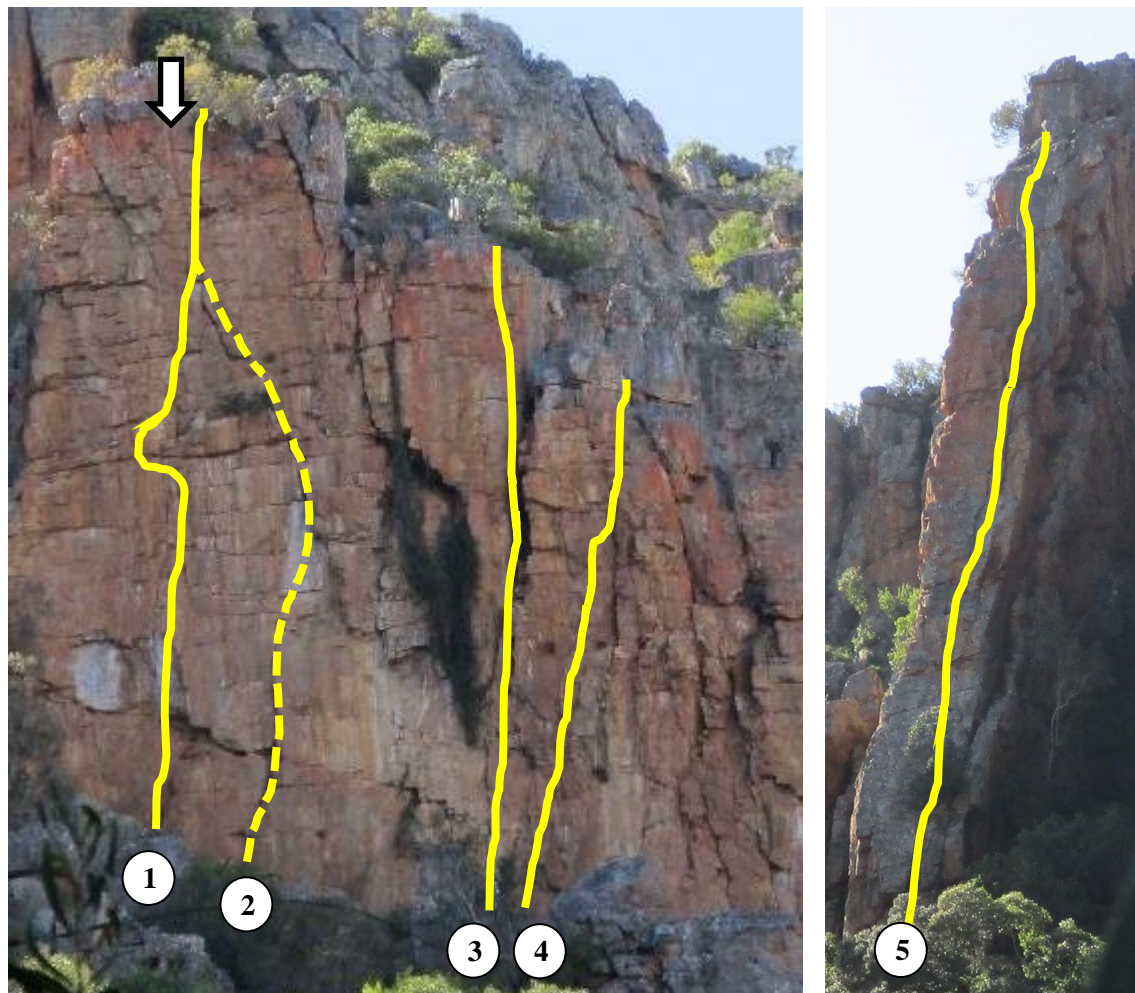
FA: M. Dom & S. Govender (Sept 2022)

The X Factor

Follow the main path walking slight past the crag, until the Sphinx comes into view. Turn left at a big cairn through by some small trees and a bit before a river crossing. Find your way up the slope (some cairns) towards the Sphinx, then traverse left to get to the left side of X Factor.

Morning shade, afternoon sun

Walk in from kloof entrance: 35 mins



1. Rolex (23) **** [N, T]

Crack line up the left of the orange face.

FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Sept 2022)

2. Deluxe (22) **** [N, T]

Tricky start, then tend up and right to the small left facing corner. Up and left to follow the left crack tending up to join *Rolex*.

FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Sept 2022)

3. The Excentrix (18) *** [N]

Follow the crack just right of the large hanging vegetation. Continue up the chimney exiting the left at the top. Scramble left to tat anchor above *Rolex*.

FA: R. Halsey, R. Strate & M. Champanis (Jan 2023)

The X Factor

4. Cutex (20) *** [N]

Weave up from the bottom left to top right, avoiding loose rock. Finish right of crack on blunt arete. Scramble up to Rolex rap point

FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Sept 2022)

5. Arborax (16) **** [N]

This rib is the far-right side of X Factor, facing the Panel. Lovely long pitch up the crack system on the right side of the rib. Start with the shallow chimney, climb through the tree, and follow the crack system to the top, exiting in the middle of the rib.

Carefully scramble to *Rolex* anchor (probably good to stay roped up).

FA: M. Champanis, R. Halsey & R. Strate (Jan 2023)

The Panel – The Prelude

Follow the main path until the Panel is in view, and continue until in line with the ridge forming the left edge of the Panel. Turn right and up some loose scree. After a short while turn left when in line with the first smaller panel.

Morning shade, afternoon sun

Walk in from kloof entrance: 35 mins



1. Rubix (16) *** [N, C]

On the first buttress on the left on the walk up to the Panel. Start bottom left and tend up and right. Easier and better than it looks.

FA: R. Halsey & R. Strate (Nov 2022)

The Panel

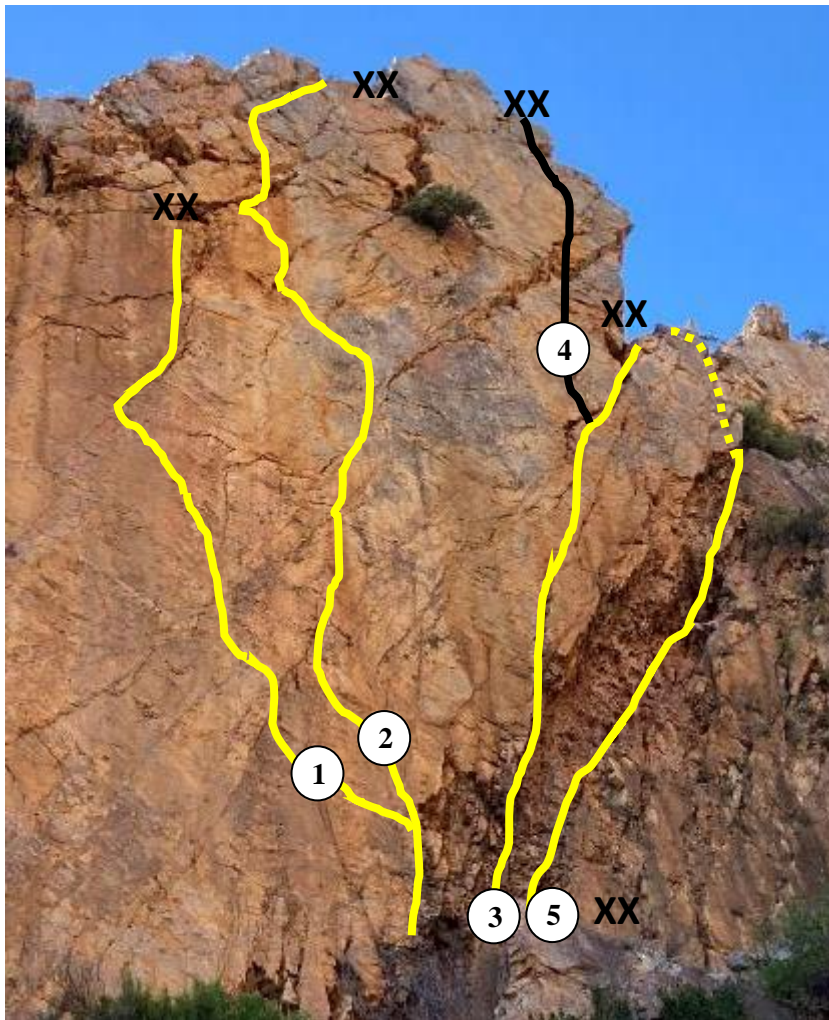
Approach as for the Prelude but continue up the slope following cairns.

Morning shade, afternoon sun

Walk in from kloof entrance: 45 mins

The routes all start from a small ledge about 12m up. The approach pitch has 2 bolts and is about grade 12.

The Panel



1. The Pocket Paradox (26/27) **** [10B, C]

Traverse under the first bolt to start. Interesting and sustained sequences on pockets to reach the finish crack.

FA: R. Halsey (Sep 2022)

2. The Dominatrix (25/26) **** [4B, N, C]

A long voyage, about 45m. After the 4th (and last) bolt, head left to a wide crack
Rappel straight back down.

FA: R. Halsey and T. Larsen (Jun 2022)

3. Snortitix (24) **** [?B, C]

FA: D. Miles? BB: C. Edelstein (2022)

4. Shadowfax (24) **** [?B, C]

Split from *Snortitix* at second last bolt and go to top of crag. Too long to lower on 70m rope, so lower to anchor on *Snortitix*

FA: R. Halsey (Nov 2022)

5. The Matrix (16) ** [N, C]

Diagonally up the broken break. At the top move left and up to access anchors on *Snortitix*

FA: C. Edelstein & M. Milne (Apr 2022)

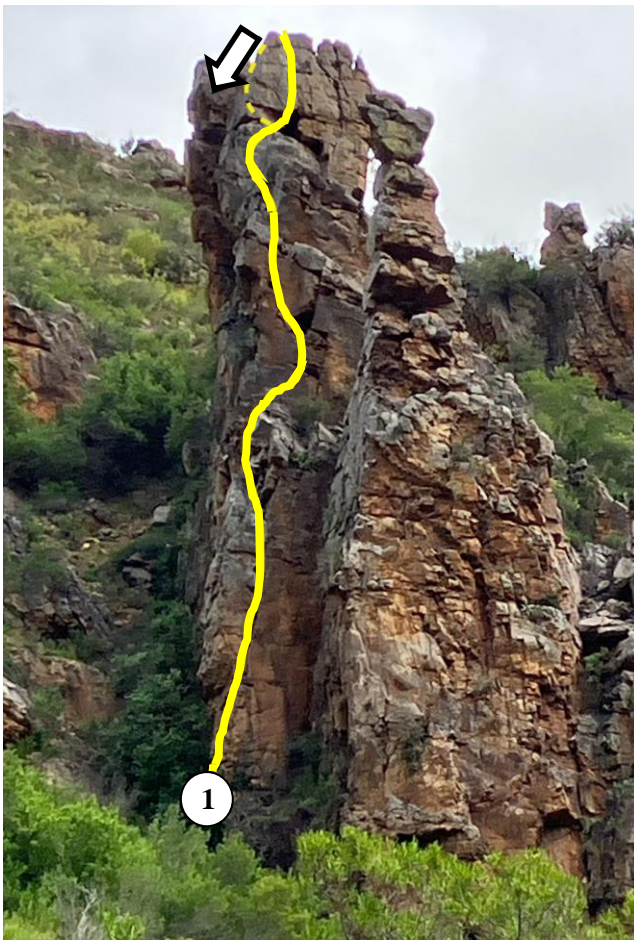
Panel Tower I

Approach as for the Prelude but find a way up right to the first tower. These are on opposite side to The Panel

Morning sun, afternoon shade

Walk in from kloof entrance: 35 mins

Abseil down the side of the tower (not the face you climb) and walk down the gully to the start.



1. Flummox (20) ** [N, T]

Surprisingly tricky off-width crack at the beginning up to a ledge, easier terrain from there. At the top, you can take a direct line at the off-width but there is no gear climbing off the ledge. Alternatively, follow the dotted yellow line round the corner on easy terrain.

FA: J. Lawson & O. Rattue (Sept 2022)

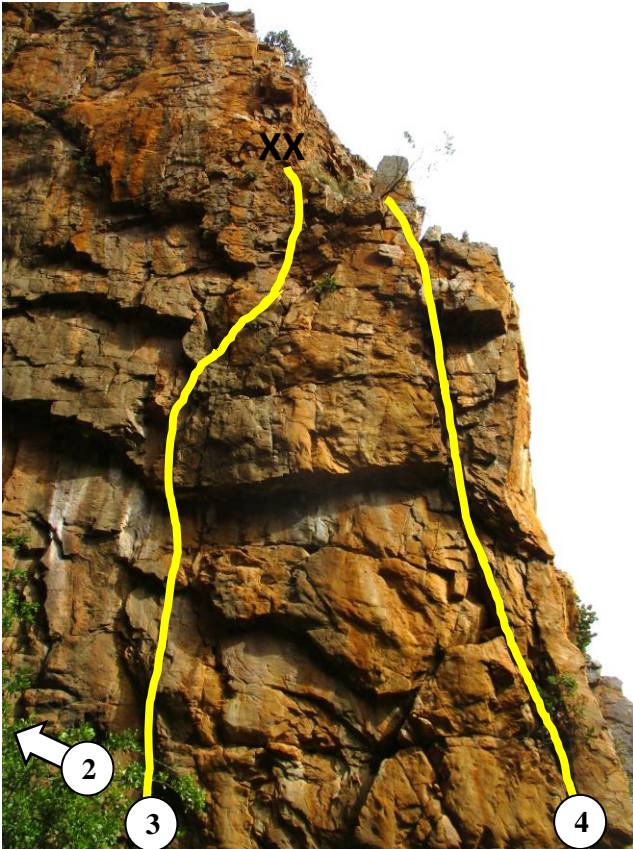
Lily Crag

Partial morning sun, Afternoon shade. Often has a cool breeze, so comfortable even on a very hot summers day.

Walk about 5 mins past the Panel turn off, then head up to a scramble (fixed static - suggest use shunt/micro traction). Head up steep ground. Lots of lilies in right season.

Plenty scope for hard routes

Walk from kloof entrance: 45 min



1. Closed Project

2. The Arum Warlox (27?) **** [?B, C]

Sustained start to wide crack in dark rock.

FA: R. Halsey (Nov 2022)

Bolts just left of the right end of panel:

3. The Lily Flex (21) *** [8B, C]

FA: R. Halsey (July 2022)

4. Crackatax (23) **** [N]

Crack line on right of panel.

Traverse left to use chains on *The Lily Flex*

FA: C. Edelstein (July 2022)

Far Tower

Walk about 25 mins past the Panel turn off, bundu bashing heading up the hill to the right side of the river.

Early morning and late afternoon shade

Walk in from kloof entrance: 60 mins



Forex (16) * [N, T]**

Climb the crack through a chimney and then traverse right a few meters to find some flakes up to a ledge. Move right to a tat rap point. Potential for more climbing above.

FA: O. Rattue & S. Cummane (Sep 2022)